

## **Veterans Day Events Around the State 2009**

**Ashley County** – The city of Hamburg will hold its Veterans Day ceremony on November 11 at 11:00 a.m. at the Ashley County Courthouse Annex, 205 E. Jefferson. County Veterans Service Officer Jim Skender will be the Master of Ceremonies. City Mayor and other dignitaries will be present.

**Benton County** – Walmart is proud to present “The Many Faces of Service – A Veteran’s Day Tribute” Wednesday, November 11 at the Walmart Home Office Auditorium 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Featuring: Posting of Colors by Rogers VFW Post 3031, Singing of the National Anthem and musical tribute to the military by the UNITY Choir, Missing Man ceremony, and a presentation by the Walmart Foundation. Also, featuring special guest Marcus Luttrell, decorated Navy SEAL and best-selling author of “Lone Survivor.” Book signing immediately after ceremony. RSVP Andrea Stanley [a1stanl@wal-mart.com](mailto:a1stanl@wal-mart.com) on or before Nov. 9. Individuals wishing to attend will need to know an associate who works at Walmart Home Office to be escorted into the building.

**Craighead County** – Veterans Day parade Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> downtown Jonesboro on Main Street at 10:00 a.m. Approximately 200 Arkansas Army National Guard members with the 875th Engineer Battalion's 1037<sup>th</sup> Route Clearance Company will be a featured part of the parade. The Soldiers of the 1037<sup>th</sup> will be the last group in the parade, and will stop, in formation, in front of the Craighead County Court House for a short send off ceremony. Keynote speaker for the ceremony will be Major General William Wofford, Adjutant General.

**Faulkner County** – UCA proudly presents Veterans Day 2009 Community Tailgate. Come join us at noon as we celebrate our veterans tailgate style outside Estes Stadium, November 11<sup>th</sup>. Tailgates will set up in the north parking lot. Food, Fun and Free Stuff!. Live music from The Bitter Harvest, aircraft and military displays, “Most Patriotic” competition, and a rock climbing wall. Stick around for a special ceremony honoring vets 2-3 pm. Guest speaker will be Major General Craig B. Whelden, U.S. Army (Retired).

**Perry County** – A Veterans Day ceremony will be held Wednesday, November 11 at 10:00 a.m. in Perryville at the Courthouse, 310 West Main.

**Poinsett County** – There are several events being held in Poinsett County: 1) A Veterans Day breakfast will be held Wednesday, November 11 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. for Veterans and their families at the First Baptist Church, Family Life Center in Lepanto. 2) There will be a Veterans Day program at the East Poinsett County High School Gymnasium in Lepanto at 11:00 a.m. Veterans and families and the general public are invited. 3) A Veterans Day program will be held November 11 at 1:30 p.m. at the Fine Arts Center, Harrisburg High School. All are invited. 4) A Veterans Day program will be held Wednesday, November 11 at 10 a.m. at the Trumann High School New Auditorium. Veterans and families and the general public are invited. There will be a reception for veterans and spouses in the ROTC room immediately after the ceremony. 5) A Veterans Day program will be held November 11 at 11:00 a.m. at the Marked Tree City Hall. All are invited.

**Polk County** – Veterans Day Observance will be held Wednesday, November 11 at 11:00 a.m. on the grounds of the Polk County Court House in Mena. It is an event sponsored by the Emblem Club (Elks Lodge) working jointly with County Veterans Service Officer Bob Toombs. Local Arkansas National Guard members will participate along with the American Legion, VFW, DAV, and Marine Corps League. The guest speaker will be USMC veteran Richard Reed. The public is welcome and invited to attend.

**Pope County** – The Russellville Veterans Day Parade & Ceremony will be held Wednesday, November 11 at 4:00 p.m. The parade begins at Harmon Park just east of Kroger Parking lot on West Main Street, approximately 1000 West Main Street and Terminates at 300 West C Street next to Russellville Depot. The ceremony will follow at the Russellville Main Street Depot at 5:00 p.m. The ceremony begins about 15 minutes after conclusion of parade and is set at the stage across from the depot. COL Keith Klemmer, Commander of 142nd Artillery, Arkansas Army National Guard, who was deployed with the local battalion from Russellville, is the "Grand Marshall" for the parade and will be guest speaker. The Arkansas Tech University stage band will play patriotic music for the ceremony as well as area high schools. Vintage military vehicles and vehicles and equipment from the local guard and reserve units will be part of the parade. The primary component of the ceremony will be for all Persian Gulf war veterans to line up and to "come off the 'plane'" in homecoming fashion and be recognized by receiving a specially minted challenge coin. We look forward to an outstanding event. For further information, please contact The River Valley Salute to Freedom Committee Chairman Jim Bob Humphrey at (479) 968-4411 or email [JimBob.Humphrey@humphreyfuneral.com](mailto:JimBob.Humphrey@humphreyfuneral.com)

**Pulaski County** – The Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs will present a Veterans Day Ceremony on Wednesday, November 11th at 11:00 a.m. at the State Capitol. This ceremony is to honor all veterans who have, and are serving this nation, both in war and in peace. Governor Mike Beebe will give the Veterans Day address. Command Sergeant Major Deborah Collins of the Arkansas Army National Guard will be the Master of Ceremonies. Also, in attendance will be Lieutenant Governor Bill Halter, Attorney General Dustin McDaniel, Senator Blanche Lincoln, Senator Mark Pryor, Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola, Jacksonville Mayor Gary Fletcher, Major General William Wofford, Adjutant General of the Arkansas Army National Guard and Colonel Greg Otey, Commander of the 19<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing at Little Rock Air Force Base as well as representatives of all state military and veterans' organizations. This observance will be held on the second level of the rotunda at the State Capitol. The 106th Arkansas Army National Guard Band will be providing the music and the Arkansas Army National Guard Color Guard will be posting the colors. It is a State Holiday and there will be plenty of parking available. The tunnel entrance will be open with internal elevators to the second floor. Wheelchair access is available through this entrance as well. Everyone is invited to attend this ceremony to honor our veterans. It is a special day and we wish to thank all our veterans who have sacrificed for our country.

**Union County** – Veterans Day ceremony will be held Wednesday, November 11 at 11:00 a.m. at the Court House in El Dorado. Guest Speaker will be Charles Henley, POW/MIA.

**Branson, Missouri** – "American Tribute to All Veterans". America's largest Veterans Day celebration, "Veterans Homecoming Week", takes place in Branson, Missouri, November 5-11. This seven-day tribute includes many special events, many of which are free and all of which present patriotic salutes to veterans. Words are inadequate to describe the many moving moments as Branson entertainers and community members, young and old, pay tribute to America's heroes. The week's events are coordinated by the Branson Veterans Taskforce. They have a long list of events and discounts on shows, restaurants, and attractions to honor veterans. <http://www.bransonveterans.com/veterans-homecoming.htm>

\*This information obtained from County Veterans Service Officers, the Arkansas Army National Guard, American Legion, Walmart Home Office, UCA and various veterans groups.